under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) Central assistance is released in two instalments in April and during October—December of the financial year. The first instalment of R. 9.90 crores has been released to Maharashtra in April, 1987.

(c) The Central assistance under ARWSP is presently allocated on the basis of the following criteria:

(i) 50 per cent weightage being given to the rural population in the State.

(ii) 20 per cent weightage being given to the area of the State;

(iii) 20 per cent weightage being given to the incidence of poverty in the State; and

(iv) 10 per cent weightage being given to the number of problem villages spilled over from the Sixth Plan period.

The allocation of Central assistance determined on the above basis is subject to provision of atleast an equal amount by the State Government under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP).

(d) The release of Central assistance under ARWSP to Maharashtra is in accordance with the present guidelines of ARWSP.

(e) The amount of Central assistance depends upon the allocation in accordance with the above criteria and the approved guidelines.

Suspension of the officers involved in import and industrial deals of the N.C.C.F.

4227. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1409 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1987 and state:

(a) what are the details of the three cases sent by Government to the CBI for investigation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the NCCF had placed under suspension about a dozen concerned officers in 1986 in the cases sent by Government to the CBI so that they were not able to tamper with the records or to influence the witnesses;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Deputy Manager, NCCF, who was actively associated with the bungling/irregularities at every stage in the import and industrial details is still working in the NCCF;

(d) whether all the concerned officers involved in the above deals have since been placed under suspension as has been done in the other cases in the NCCF; and

(e) if not, the reasons for maintaining such double standards in the NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The details of the three cases which have recently been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation are as follows:

(i) Alleged irregularities committed by the National Cooperative Consumers Federation in the import from Iraq and sale of 3000 MTs. of Dry Dates.

(ii) Alleged irregularities in the import of 3000 MTs of Chickpeas of Turkish origin on the basis of an indent of a non-member institution resulting in loss to the NCCF.

(iii) Alleged irregularities in the non-supply of 5000 MTs of Turkish lentils by a Vienna based firm in violation of the contract entered into with the NCCF and acceptance of insufficient guarantee by the NCCF from the firm so as to enable them to wriggle out from the contract.

(b) In 1986, ten officers of NCCF were placed under suspension when either the cases were referred to the CBI in the name of the concerned officers or their involvement was found in the cases already registered by CBI or some departmental inquiries were started against them.

(c) to (e) So far, no departmental inquiry has been started against the Deputy Manager and hence the question of his suspension does not arise at this stage. Action against the concerned officers has already been initiated.

Appointment of Farmers Representatives in Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission

4228. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have since appointed the representatives of farmers on Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission;

(b) if so, what are the names of these representatives;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for delay in appointing these representatives; and

(d) by when Government of India are likely to appoint these representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The non-official Members are yet to be appointed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government have received a large number of recommendations from a number of M.Ps., State Governments and other Socio-Political Workers. The recommendations are under the active consideration of the Government.

Modification of Rules under Section 21 of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act

4229. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have recently requested the Central Government to make some modifications in the rules under Section 21 of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976; and

(b) if so, what are the details and response of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra formulated a scheme in which surplus land exempted under Section 21 of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 was proposed to be utilised for provision of sites & services and construction of low cost tenements. There are certain legal difficulties which have been brought to the notice of the State Government.

Purchase of Vast Farm Land in Delhi

4230. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the 'Indian Post' dated 25th July, 1987 regarding purchase of vast farm land by Shri Ajitabh Bachchan and Shri Amitabh Bachchan in Delhi, and showing a nominal value in the sale deeds thereby concealing the black money transaction to avoid taxes;